

SELECTION OF THE COUNTY SEAT  
OR SEAT OF JUSTICE.

In pursuance of an Act of the General Assembly, we the Commissioners appointed for the purpose of viewing a suitable and fit place the Seat of Justice for the County of Pocahontas, have agreed to set the Seat of Justice for said County, on the land of John Bradshaw where an old barn stands in his peach orchard this ~~xxx~~ 6th day of March,

Abraham McNeel  
John Bradshaw  
James Tallman  
John Jordin  
Jacob Warwick  
John Baseter.

*RF Yeager*

*Pocahontas 40*

FORMATION OF POCOHONTAS COUNTY.

In the month of March, 1821, the general assembly of Virginia passed a bill entitled "An Act to provide for the formation of a new county out of parts of Bath, Pendleton and Randolph." Section first of the bill defined the boundaries of the new county, the area of which was 760 square miles. In 1824 the southern boundary lines was changed, and 60 square miles was taken from Greenbrier, thus increasing the area to 820 miles, its present area. The same section also declared that the new county should be styled and known as Pocahontas, in memory of, and in honor of the Indian princess of that name. Another section named the place and fixed the time at which the first Court should be held.

THE FIRST COUNTY COURT.

In conformity with the before mentioned act, the first County Court ever held for Pocahontas County, convened at the home of John Bradshaw, at what is now the village of Huntersville, on the 5th day of March, 1822, the day appointed for that purpose. The following justices of the peace, each holding commissions signed by his excellency, Thomas Mann Randolph, Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, namely: John Jordan, William Poage; Jr., James Tallman, Robert Gay, George Poage, Benjamin Tallman, John Baxter and George Burner. John Baxter qualified the Court, each member of which took the oath of office, the oath of fidelity to the Commonwealth, the oath to support the Constitution of the United States, and the oath against dueling. William Poage then in turn administered the several oaths to John Baxter, and the Court was declared open for the transaction of such business as might properly come before it.

John Jordan then presented a commission from the Governor appointing him high sheriff of the county, after which he gave bond in the penalty of \$30,000, with Abraham McNeel and Isaac McNeel as his bondsmen, and took the several oaths prescribed by law. Josiah Beard was then appointed clerk of the Court, and with Thomas Beard, George Poage and James Tallman entered into a bond of \$3,000, took the oaths and at once entered upon the discharge of his duties. John Reynolds was then appointed attorney for the commonwealth. He at once took the oaths and entered upon the discharge of his duties. Sampson L. Mathews was recommended as a fit and proper person to execute the office of surveyor of lands. William Hughes was then appointed constable for the lower district (Little Lovelns) it being the same bailiwick in which the said William Hughes had served when it was a portion of Bath County. He gave bond in the penalty of \$600, with William McNeel and Robert McClinic as his securities. Then Jumon Cooper was appointed constable in the district called "Head of Greenbrier" (now Greenbank District) whereupon he and his bondsmen, William Slaven and Samuel Hogsett, entered into a bond in the penalty of \$600, conditioned according to law. Cyrus Lay and Johnson Reynolds, having previously been licensed to practice their calling permitted to practice law in the courts of the commonwealth, were, upon motion the court then adjourned until 10 A. M. the next day.

Justices present except Robert Gay. John Jordan, who the day before had qualified as high sheriff, came into court and asked that his son, Johnathan, be appointed as his deputy and the record says: "The court being of the opinion that the said Johnathan Jordan is a man of honesty, probity and good demeanor, and he is therefore permitted to qualify; whereupon he took the several oaths." The court then proceeded to appoint overseers or surveyors of the various roads, completed and prospective, within the county and the names of those who assumed charge of the highways and thoroughfares through the mountains of what a few years before had been the wilds of West Augusta, were as follows: James Callison, William Edmiston, John Hill, John Cochran, Alexander Wadell, John McNeel (little John), Robert Moore, Martin Dilley, Benjamin Arbogast, William Sharp, William Hartman, and Joseph Wolfenbarger. Robert Gay was then appointed commissioner of the revenue; whereupon he came into court, and with William Cackley and John Baxter entered into a bond in the penalty of \$1,000, after which he took the several oaths required by law.

The court then proceeded to organize the county militia, as a part of the military establishment of the State. The following named persons were named as "fit and proper" to fill the respective offices, and the governor and council requested to appoint the same: John Baxter for colonel commandant of the county of Pocahontas; Benjamin Tallman for the office of lieutenant colonel; William Blair for major; Boone Tallman, William Arbogast, Henry Herold, Isaac Moore, and Milburn Hughes, captains; Andrew G. Mathews, Robert Warwick, William Morgan, William Young and James Rhea, for lieutenants; Jacob Slaven, James Wanless, Samuel Young, and James Callison, for ensigns.

Abraham McNeel was recommended to the Governor as a suitable person to discharge the office of coroner for the county. A license was granted to Travis W. Perkins to keep a house of entertainment, who thus became the first hotel proprietor in Pocahontas County. Jacob W. Mathews, Thomas Hill, John Slaven, James Callison, William Edmiston, John Gilliland, William Cackley, Samuel Cummings, John Bradshaw, Joseph Moore, Patrick Burfee, James Waugh and James Sharp were each recommended as suitable persons to be appointed justices of the peace, and the court having put both the civil and military machinery in complete running order, adjourned, and Pocahontas County entered upon her career as one of the integral factors of the "Old Dominion."

#### MAY TERM OF 1822.

This term convened at the house of John Bradshaw on the 7th day of the month, and the first grand jury that ever sat for the body of Pocahontas county was empanelled and sworn. It was composed of the following named persons: Samuel Dougherty, foreman, John Mooney, George Lee, John Johnson, Joseph Freed, James Grimes, James Bridger, Samuel Waugh, Henry Herold, James Lewis, John Grimes, Morris Hughes, William Blair, Andrew Edmiston, Samuel Hogsett, James McNeel, William McNeel, John Moore, Lanty Lockridge, Johnathan Griffin, and Abraham Sembord. After receiving their instructions they retired to consider of their presentations; soon after they returned into court, having found two indictments, one against David H. Smith for assault and battery, and another against Josiah Dean for obstructing the public highway.